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Letter dated 12 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement issued on 10 May 2000 on Ethiopia/Eritrea by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 12 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 10 May 2000 on Ethiopia/Eritrea by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union, having been informed by the Presidency's Special Representative of the outcome of the recent proximity talks held in Algiers for the solution of the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea, calls upon the Governments of the two countries to enter immediately and without preconditions into further negotiations on the basis of the statement of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Chair on 5 May 2000 in order to reach an agreement on the expedited implementation, which the Union stands ready to support, of the OAU peace settlement in accordance with the OAU "framework agreement" and the "modalities of implementation".

The European Union fully supports the efforts deployed in this direction by the representative of the current Algerian Chair of OAU, together with those of the United States of America and its own Presidency, and calls upon the two Governments to cooperate constructively with them, to refrain from taking any military action, which would have disastrous consequences for both countries, and to exercise maximum restraint.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with the present statement.